

Remarks/Arguments

Claims 1-20 are pending in this application, and are rejected in the Office Action of September 23, 2008. Claims 1, 4, 5, 7, 8, 11, 12, 14-16, 19 and 20 are amended herein to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter Applicants regard as the invention.

Re: Drawings

The drawings are objected to for allegedly failing to show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. In particular, the Examiner alleges that the "placement of the password into the unreserved fields of the DVD standard which Applicant regards as a key feature of the invention must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s)." In response, Applicants note that the aforementioned feature has been canceled from the claims. The claims now state that the password is stored in the same program chain as the selected recording title. Accordingly, FIG. 3 is amended herein to include this feature in step 335 thereof. In view of this amendment, withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Re: Claims 1-20

Claims 1-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) as being anticipated over Japanese Patent Publication No. 2003-132624 by Tsurui (hereinafter, "Tsurui"). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection for at least the following reasons.

Independent claim 1, as amended herein, recites:

“enabling a user to select a recording title stored on a digital storage medium for password protection;
receiving a password from said user for said selected recording title;
storing said password on said digital storage medium in a same program chain as said selected recording title; and

requiring said password to be input before playing back said selected recording title.” (emphasis added)

As indicated above, amended independent claim 1 now states that a password for a selected recording title is stored in a same program chain as the selected recording title protected by the password. Independent claims 8 and 16 are also amended herein to recite this feature in a similar manner. Support for this amendment may be found, for example, on page 10, lines 19-21 of Applicants’ specification. Accordingly, no new matter is introduced by this amendment.

Tsurui fails to disclose or suggest, *inter alia*, the aforementioned feature of independent claims 1, 8 and 16 in which a password for a selected recording title is stored in a same program chain as the selected recording title protected by the password. First, it is unclear to Applicants as to whether or not Tsurui actually stores its password on the recording medium itself, or in the recorder that accommodates the recording medium. However, even assuming, *arguendo*, that Tsurui stores its password on the recording medium itself, it is clear that such password is not stored in a same program chain as the selected recording title protected by the password, as claimed. In particular, paragraphs [0042]-[0046] and FIG. 5(b) of Tsurui make a clear distinction between program chains PGC#1-PGC#5 which are used to store password input screens 301-305 of FIG. 3, and PGC#10 which is used to store the recording title protected by the password. That is, assuming that Tsurui actually stores a password on the recording medium itself (i.e., in program chains PGC#1-PGC#5 of FIG. 5(b)), it is clear that such password is NOT stored in the same program chain (i.e., PGC#10) as the recording title protected by the password. As such, Tsurui fails to disclose or suggest at least one notable feature of the claimed invention, and thereby teaches a different solution for providing password protection than the claimed invention. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing remarks/arguments and accompanying amendments, the Applicants believe this application stands in condition for allowance. Accordingly,

Customer No. 24498
Serial No. 10/580,997
Resp. to OA dtd Sept. 23, 2008

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PU030323

reconsideration and allowance are respectfully solicited. If, however, the Examiner is of the opinion that such action cannot be taken, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicants' attorney at (609) 734-6813, so that a mutually convenient date and time for a telephonic interview may be scheduled. No fee is believed due. However, if a fee is due, please charge the fee to Deposit Account 07-0832.

Respectfully submitted,

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December 23, 2008